



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
House Republican Leader
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room H-218
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Lewis:

In the aftermath of yesterday's devastating earthquake, we are writing to request that you include robust emergency funds to assist Haiti in the next legislative vehicle before the House.

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12 was centered just ten miles from the capital of Port-au-Prince, leaving thousands of Haitians dead and millions in dire need of basic food, shelter, and medical attention. As communication and infrastructure networks have been severely disrupted, we may not know the full extent of the damage for several weeks. It is already clear, however, that the relief and reconstruction needs of the Haitian people will be substantial and long-term.

The United States and the international community must act quickly to address the immediate needs of the Haitian people and to support the Government of Haiti. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and lacks the capacity to respond to and recover from a disaster of such scale and scope.

Robust and immediate U.S. assistance to Haiti in the wake of this catastrophe is vital to support stability in that fragile country, and is in our own national security interest. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kendrick Blake

Quinn Sims

Sam Fann

Philomena George

Corinne Brown

GBattiford

Lon Klein

Donna F. Edwards

Dublie Wasserdorf

Olivia Ros-Lettinen

Marcia L. Judge

Keith Ellis

Robert M.

Melanie Watson

Charles B. Rangel

Jan Shale
G. J. J. P.